



2016 MOUNTAIN WEST ARTS CONFERENCE Thursday, May 5

10 YEARS

PRESENTER BIOS *(Subject to change)*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Colleen Macklin - Associate Professor, Parsons School of Design; Co-Director, PETLab



[Colleen Macklin](#) is an Associate Professor in Design and Technology at Parsons School of Design in New York City and Co-Director of PETLab (Prototyping Education and Technology Lab), a lab focused on developing games for experimental learning and social engagement. PETLab projects include a curriculum in game design for the Boys and Girls Club, games in disaster preparedness for the Red Cross, and big games such as Re:Activism and the “fiscal” sport Budgetball. She is a member of the game design collective Local No. 12, known for their card game the Metagame. Her work has been shown at Come Out and Play, SoundLab, The Whitney Museum for American Art and Creative Time. BFA, Media Arts Pratt Institute, MA, International Affairs, The New School.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Lesly Allen - Arts Council Coordinator, South Salt Lake City



Lesly Allen is the Arts Council Coordinator for South Salt Lake. Her passion for the arts and the impact it can have on communities began in her youth as a photographer, and later studying photography as an undergraduate. Lesly served many years with the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Art Works for Kids program at her daughters' school as a classroom volunteer and fundraiser. Lesly received a Masters Degree in Community Leadership and Arts Administration from Westminster College in Salt Lake City. She was the creator and administrator of the 9 Pillars Mural Project, an outdoor mural project raising awareness about youth experiencing homelessness. Lesly also serves on the Board of Directors for Utah Arts Alliance and Splore.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Nan Groves Anderson - Executive Director, Utah Tourism Industry Association



Nan is the Executive Director of the Utah Tourism Industry Association, the trade association for the tourism industry in Utah. She's had many different jobs in the tourism industry and has learned from all of them, loved most of them, and feels fortunate to be able to help promote the best tourism destination in the world: Utah. She has served as co-chairman, Scenic Byway 12 All-American Road Committee, served on Board of Directors of the Grand Circle Association, received the Friend of the Circle Award; served on the Six Counties Association of Governments Economic Development District Board, Board of the Utah Association of Travel Regions, and as Chairman, Huddle West Travel Show; served as Secretary of the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition, and as Vice Chairman of the Heart of the Rockies organizing committee. Named one of Utah Business Magazine's "30 Women to Watch" in 2008.

Michael Bingham - Teaching Artist, Mountain Crest High School



As a Teaching Artist at Mountain Crest High School in Hyrum, UT, Michael believes in the power of art to enrich and edify our lives. He began teaching a little more than 8 years ago with the hope of helping our education system better appreciate and teach Imagination and Creativity as valuable skills.

His education includes a degree in advertising design from Ricks College (now BYU Idaho), a B.A. in Illustration with Honors from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California and a teaching certificate from Utah State University in Logan. Michael has been a keynote speaker at both the Washington State Art Educators Conference and the Northern Utah Art Educators Conference. He was recently selected as Utah's "Art Educator of the Year" and serves in the Utah Art Educators Association.

Juan Carlos Claudio - Director, Panamá Dance & Cultural Exchange; Co-director, Grey Matters: Dance for Parkinson's Disease



Juan Carlos Claudio is Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, Department of Modern Dance where he teaches studio and lecture courses and directs multiple community arts-based projects nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of several distinguished teaching awards and the National Dance Studio Life Magazine's "Generous Heart" Award for his contribution to innovation, integration, global engagement, community service, and advocacy in dance education. Claudio danced as a full-time member of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company from 1996-2006 and has worked with other dance and opera companies in Salt Lake City. While in New York, Claudio danced for the Séan Curran Company. Claudio is the co-director of Grey Matters: the first Dance for Parkinson's Disease in Utah a participatory community-based service and research program in collaboration with the Department of Physical Therapy and Lowell Bennion Community Service Center at the University of Utah.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Gay Cookson - Director, Utah Division of Arts & Museums



Gay Cookson joined the Utah Division of Arts & Museums as its new Director in November 2015. She formerly served as the senior director of development for the University of Utah College of Fine Arts, which includes the University's four professional arts and cultural affiliates: Pioneer Theatre Company, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Tanner Dance Company and Kingsbury Hall (UtahPresents); and six academic departments including ballet, modern dance, theater, music, art and art history, and film and media arts. At the College of Fine Arts, she worked to support and expand the influence of arts and creativity on campus and throughout the community.

Cookson earned a bachelor's degree and a master's in arts administration from the University of Utah.

Chrissy Deal - Program Associate - Multicultural Initiative, Western States Art Federation



Chrissy Deal is a Program Associate at WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation) whose mission is to strengthen the financial, organizational, and policy infrastructure of the arts in the western United States. Her work at WESTAF centers around cultivating multicultural leadership in the arts through professional development and engaging state arts agencies and cultural policy leaders in efforts that promote diversity, inclusion and equity. An alumna of the Circle of Latina Leadership with nearly 20 years of nonprofit and philanthropic experience, Chrissy is an active community member, a trustee with The Denver Foundation, holds a B.A. in art history from Northwestern University and a Masters of Nonprofit Management from Regis University.

Mario Duran - Program Director, Inclusion Center for Community and Justice



Mario has been a volunteer with the Inclusion Center since attending Anytown in the Summer of 2009. During their volunteer work with the Inclusion Center, Mario has worked for and with several different non-profit organizations that have teen programs in the Salt Lake valley because of their passion for youth development and community organizing. Mario currently sits on the Disproportionate Minority Contact Advisory Committee, is a member of two community collectives and is an alum of the Brown Boi Project. Mario was raised and is currently living in the Rose Park neighborhood where they value sustaining and preserving its rich history of people of color that have lived there historically. He is currently pursuing a BS in Ethnic Studies at the University of Utah.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Craig Fisher - Artist; Chairman, Holladay Arts Council



Craig Fisher is a professional sculptor and photographer residing in Utah. As an artist, his unique background in the sciences and his acute observations of the natural world bring a fresh perspective to his work. He approaches his art with both an artists eye for narrative and a scientist's eye for detail and accuracy. For him, art is a way to remind people of the natural beauties which surround us, especially those subtle beauties which we often forget to admire in our hurried lives. His art can be found coast to coast across the United States and internationally.

Linda Galindo - Consultant, Author, Speaker Educator



Consultant, author, speaker and educator, Linda Galindo teaches leaders how to bring accountability into their organizations to significantly improve performance. Galindo inspires leaders to empower themselves, and those that follow them, to speak the truth, focus on what matters and be fully accountable for the results they produce. Galindo specializes in working in healthcare and government – bringing the principles of accountability to organizations where it is truly needed – at the leadership level. She also consults to clients in a variety of verticals including energy, financial, medical devices, transportation, insurance and the arts.

Sheryl Gillilan - Executive Director, Art Access



Sheryl joined the Art Access staff in 2004 as the part-time Finance Manager. Since that time she has made numerous contributions that have helped the organization grow and gain greater visibility. In 2009, Sheryl became Assistant Director. After conducting an exhaustive search throughout the summer of 2011, the Art Access Board of Directors appointed Sheryl to the position of Executive Director. Sheryl received a B.A. in Psychology from Lewis and Clark College, and a Masters in Social Services (MSS) and a Master's in Law and Social Policy (MLSP) from Bryn Mawr College. She is also an award-winning quilt artist who previously taught art classes on a volunteer basis to elementary school students.

Joan Hammer - Director, Box Elder County Tourism

Bio coming soon

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Sharen Hauri - *Urban Design Director, South Salt Lake City*



Sharen Hauri has planned and designed public projects at all scales. She has a passion for both cities and wild places and found both in Utah. As the Urban Design Director for South Salt Lake City for the last 5 years, she has helped the community envision its leap from an inner-ring suburb to a walkable, urban neighborhood. The City is currently building community centers for each neighborhood, adding to its trail and bike network, and creating a downtown around its streetcar stations. She has a B.A. in Architectural Studies (emphasis on Historic Preservation) from the University of Utah and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Utah State University. She moved to Utah twenty years ago for the mountains and stayed to raise a family in what is finally becoming “a real city.”

Lance Larsen - *Utah Poet Laureate*



Lance Larsen's fourth collection of poems, *Genius Loci*, was recently published by University of Tampa Press. His earlier collections include *Backyard Alchemy* (2009), *In All Their Animal Brilliance* (2005), and *Erasable Walls* (1998). He holds a PhD from the University of Houston. His work appears widely in such venues as *Georgia Review*, *Southern Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, *River Styx*, *Orion*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, *Best American Poetry 2009*, *Poetry Daily*, and elsewhere. His nonfiction has twice made the Notable Essay list in *Best American Essays*. He is currently working on *Seventeen Ways to Float*, a collection of essays about place, family, and memory which won first place in the 2011 Utah Original Writing Competition. Since 1993, he has taught literature and creative writing at BYU, where he currently serves as associate chair. In 2012, he was named to a five-year term as Utah Poet Laureate.

Josh Loftin - *Communications Director, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts*



Josh Loftin serves as the Director of Communications for the Utah Department of Heritage & Arts. Prior to joining the department, Josh owned his own marketing firm. He also directed the communications and marketing for Wasatch Academy, a private boarding school. Between 1996 and 2012, he worked as political reporter and editor for the *Deseret News*, *City Weekly* and the *Associated Press*. He is a graduate of Utah State University.

Ginamarie Marsala - *Marketing Communications Manager, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera*



I am a digital marketing professional who specializes in social media marketing and content strategy. I also have extensive experience in account and project management and hold a bachelor's degree in mass communication from the University of Utah. My passion resides in creatively solving, what I call, the marketing puzzle. Digital marketing is a series of moving pieces that forms an ever-changing landscape, demanding innovation and creativity to stay one step ahead.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Jake McIntire - Cofounder/CEO, UNION Industrial Coworking; Consultant, Ogden City Master Plan for Arts & Culture



Jake is a designer, entrepreneur, strategist, and creative problem solver working at the intersections of business, art, design, and urban theory. Jake is the cofounder and CEO of UNION Industrial Coworking. He is also currently working as a consultant and collaborator on Ogden City's Master Plan for Arts and Culture. He holds an MFA in Collaborative Design with an emphasis in Social Entrepreneurship and Urban Theory from the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Jake received his BFA with Honors in Intermedia Sculpture with a minor in Business from the University of Utah. Jake has facilitated workshops throughout Oregon and Utah on subjects such as: organizational development, change management, urban theory, and ecosystem policy. He has cofounded numerous art collectives, including Project Ground Floor and the University of Utah's first sculpture club. Jake has dedicated himself to exploring urban transformation and he believes that art is among our most powerful resources in creating better cities.

Vickie Morgan - Art Therapist, University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute; Faculty, Visual Art & Design, Salt Lake Community College



Vickie Morgan is a registered art therapist, associate clinical mental health counselor, and art educator. Vickie earned a BFA, Painting and Drawing and BS, Psychology at the University of Utah and Master's of Art Therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Vickie has provided art therapy services to adults and youth, currently working in acute mental health care at the University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute. Vickie has been an adjunct art professor in the Visual Art and Design Department at Salt Lake Community College for nine years and has extensive experience in advising and professional development.

Alex Moya - Artist; Co-Director of Education, American Institute of Graphic Arts (Salt Lake City Chapter)



Alex Moya is a designer and artist who explores how art and design give us opportunities to see ourselves and each other in ways that support the development of our full humanity. An Inclusion Center program changed his life, and continues to impact his design, art, and how he relates to the world. He moved from Mexico as a teenager and has been imagining, making and reclaiming space since then. He worked as health promoter and advocate with the Latin LGBT immigrant community in Utah for many years. He currently works as the Graphic Designer for the Girl Scouts of Utah, partners with nonprofits to offer his design services, and serves as board member of the Salt Lake City chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) serving as Co-Director of Education.

Sara M. K. Neal - Associate Director of Marketing, Ballet West



Sara has nearly 15 years of experience in marketing, advertising, and public relations. A serendipitous moment attending a Los Angeles Philharmonic concert introduced her to arts marketing, and her MFA in Arts Administration solidified a love for connecting community members with the performing and visual arts. She works, plays, and lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her idol is Wonder Woman.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Kari Ross Nelson - Research and Evaluation Asst., Thanksgiving Point Institute



A native of Santa Rosa, California, I have always been interested in people and places. I studied Classical Civilizations at BYU and Museum Studies at San Francisco State University. After a decade of experience in museum education, I am currently completing an MS in BYU's department of Instructional Psychology and Technology, with an emphasis in research and evaluation. I work as the Research & Evaluation Assistant at Thanksgiving Point Institute, where we study visitor learning and evaluate exhibits in an effort to optimize learning experiences there.

Cat Palmer - Artist



Born and raised in California, Cat Palmer developed her insatiable romance with photography at 15 years old, against the backdrop of Los Angeles... a place teeming with racial divides, cultural diversity, and economic inequality. Her world view further evolved as she immersed herself in the streets of Mexico, developing a new obsession that would plague her art, forever... human empowerment. She has exhibited all over the salt lake valley and united states and has won many awards. Cat has devoted her craft to the expression of meaning through images, and has found a powerful voice in women's empowerment. www.catpalmer.com

Justina Parsons-Bernstein - Heritage Resources Coordinator, Utah State Parks



Justina Parsons-Bernstein is the Heritage, Interpretation and ADA Resources Manager for Utah State Parks. She has had the good fortune to work for diverse and interesting cultural entities around the country. There is nothing she loves better than introducing people to a cultural resource, event or exchange that will expand their ways of thinking.

Diane Stern - Coordinator, Ogden City Arts



After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Theater Design and Technology, Diane spent happy years free-lancing as a costume and set designer and the multitude of other jobs that paid for life between gigs. She has worked as a dance company business manager, a costume studio manager, designer and mother. Diane was the director of the Cultural Affairs Series at Weber State University from 1999 to 2015. She served three terms as the chair of Utah Presenters, Utah's state consortium of performing arts presenters and also sat on the grant review board for the Western States Arts Federation's TourWest program. Currently she sits as founding chair of the Weber Arts Council, Weber County's designated local arts agency. Diane enjoys the trails, paddle boarding and work with fabric and yarn. She and her husband, choreographer Erik Stern, have two fine sons, Walker and Cole.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Spencer Terry - Executive Director, *Inclusion Center for Community and Justice*



Ever since his first Inclusion Center program in 1997, Spencer has committed himself to a life of building lasting relationships and bridges. Spencer directed programs for the Utah and Nebraska branches of the National Conference for Community and Justice from 2000 to 2009. He has had additional careers in the last 20 years to match his education in Business Management and Human Resources that relocated him to the Midwest and New England areas. While he was away, Spencer founded a community based non-profit, served as city councilman, and was a regional event director, division manager, and executive hotelier.

Kasandra VerBruggen - Executive Director, *Spy Hop*



Kasandra VerBruggen is the Executive Director of Spy Hop Productions, a youth media organization in Salt Lake City dedicated to empowering young people through the digital media arts. Kasandra has a BA in Political Science from the University of Arizona and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington. She has over 20 years of experience in the social sector, holding various positions from alternative educator to program director, managing director and executive director of nonprofit, educational, and youth development organizations.

Mary Wells - Artist



Mary Wells is a retired classroom teacher. She currently volunteers with the Book Arts Treasure Chest Program at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah and is an independent workshop consultant. She is a regular presenter of workshops throughout Utah, championing the integration of the arts across the curriculum. She is a book artist who designs and creates abecedarium books. Her work can be seen in various exhibitions and galleries along the Wasatch Front.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Brad Westwood - Director, Utah Division of State History



Prior to joining the Utah Division of State History, Brad Westwood served as Manager of Acquisitions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in its Church History Department, where he managed staff, programs, projects and budgets for the Church History Museum and Library. Before that he served various roles at Brigham Young University, including Department Chair of the L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Collection Manager, and Archivist. Westwood has also served as historic preservation officer for the LDS Church. He has a Master's of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts, and a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from BYU.

Eliot Wilcox - Executive Director, Timpanogos Storytelling Institute



Eliot Wilcox is the Executive Director of Timpanogos Storytelling Institute. In his role, he coordinates the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who work with Orem City to produce the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival and other year-round Timpanogos Storytelling events. Timpanogos Storytelling programs reach over 70,000 people each year. Eliot has an MA in English from Brigham Young University and has administered grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Library Association, Utah Division of Arts and Museums, Western States Arts Federation, and other organizations.